

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 remain pending in the present application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)
over Lickfield et al. in view of Tabor et al.

Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Lickfield et al. in view of Tabor et al. Applicants traverse this basis for rejection and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

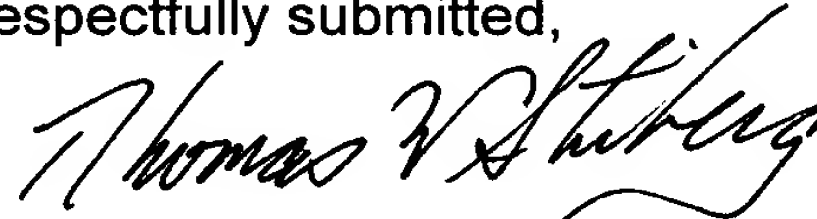
Applicants reiterate their comments regarding the cited references as set forth in their reply dated 28 May 2002 and their preliminary remarks set forth in the RCE.

Applicants believe that the preliminary amendment submitted in the RCE effectively excludes the incorporation of a grafted polyethylene into the filaments of the claimed fabrics, as suggested by Tabor et al. The Examiner's attention is directed to the amended claim language, wherein the LLDPE is characterized as a "copolymer consisting of ethylene copolymerized with minor amounts of an α -olefin having 3 to 12 carbon atoms" and the high density polyethylene component as a "homopolymer". Accordingly, neither polyethylene component of the present claims can be a grafted polyethylene, as suggested by Tabor et al. The claimed LLDPE can consist only of repeating units of ethylene and an α -olefin, which are the required components of LLDPE, and the high density polyethylene is now limited to being a homopolymer; i.e. it cannot contain grafted monomer units on the chain and still be considered a homopolymer.

Since Tabor et al. require that at least one of the polyethylene components of their blend (b) be a grafted olefinic polymer (col. 4, lines 39-40), the skilled artisan motivated to substitute component (b) of Tabor et al. for the polyethylene component of Lickfield et al. would not form a filament/fabric within the scope of the present claims, which effectively exclude the grafted olefinic polymers of Tabor et al.

Withdrawal of the rejection for failure to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness due to failure to meet each and every limitation of the claims is requested. *In re Vaeck*, citation omitted.

Respectfully submitted,



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